

THE PARENTS' UNION SCHOOL.

Public Elementary Schools.

The Parents' Union School issues a common curriculum for all classes of Schools, Elementary and Secondary, Public and Private, as well as for children in Home School-rooms.

The Heads of *Public Elementary Schools* are urged to take up this work for the advantage of the scholars and the satisfaction of the teachers, and with a view to the well-being of the nation. Experiments prove that the scheme works remarkably well in such schools. *No fees are required.*

The Head Teachers of public Elementary Schools may become members of the P.N.E.U. ; Subscription, 7/6 including the *Parents' Review* ; *but this is optional.*

Elementary Schools are qualified to use the Parents' Union School Curriculum upon the following *Conditions* :—

- i. That the programmes shall be worked out in as many subjects as possible, *including all the historical, literary, scientific and art subjects*, throughout the School.
- ii. That the *amount* of time for each subject shall be *not more nor less* than that stated in the Time-tables.
- iii. That each pupil shall have, and read for himself, *his own books*, as set in his programme.
- iv. That sets of answers shall be submitted for examination at the usual times ; one set for each of the P.U.S. Forms. That *all* the members of each Form take the examinations. (See *Regulations*).

The *Fresh Programme* every term does not mean that the books are renewed each term : most of them take three years to read, so that teachers can easily estimate the work for one year or for two from the current term's programme by adding on about the same number of pages for each succeeding term. The books used for *Recitations* and *Reading*, including Plutarch's *Lives*, and the *Pictures* change each term, but are replaced by others of about the same size and price, so that the cost can readily be estimated.

The Cost of Books is an outlay in advance for, say, three years; at the end of that time it will generally be found that the cost falls within the usual average for the school.

No Expense but that of books attends the introduction of this work into Elementary Schools.

The Classification of the Pupils is another matter for consideration.

The seven standards of Elementary Schools may be easily brought into line with the first four Forms of the P.U.S. Forms VI. and V., for which a large number of books is necessary, would not often be attempted in these schools.

Infants Class	=	Form I.B	Age 6-7.
Standard I.	=	" I.A	" 7-8.
" II.	=	Upper I.A	" 8-9.
" III.	=	Form II.B	" 9-10.
" IV.	=	" II.A	" 10-11.
" V.	=	" IV.B	" 11-12.
" VI.	=	" III.A	" 12-13.
" VII.	=	" IV.B	" 13-14.

When scholars from Elementary Schools pass on to Central Schools they should usually continue in Forms III. and IV. until they are 15. The P.U.S. Forms are graded according to the intelligence proper at a given age.

The P.U.S. Time Tables are arranged for Home School-rooms for the hours of morning school *only*. [The lighter portions of the Literature (novel, play and poems), are read for amusement in the evenings and also in the holidays. Music, Handicrafts, Field Work, Dancing, Nature Note Books, Century Books, are taken in the afternoons]. Elementary Schools will therefore have a wide margin for other necessary work. It is desirable that children should buy their own copies of *Scott*, for example, or *Shakespeare*—whatever may be set for *reading* and *recitations*—so that these may be read at home as well as at school.

As there is no *Home Work* in the P.U.S., children would no doubt have leisure to read some part of their volume of *Scott* or other story books at home (to their parents). Also, they should be enabled to read occasionally books of fun and adventure not set in their school work in which the literature is meant to illustrate the historical period studied. Local authorities will no doubt usually provide the books. Such authors as Kipling, Ballantyne, Marryat, Stevenson, Kingsley, Fennimore Cooper.

"Lewis Carroll," Charlotte Yonge, Tom Hughes, Sarah Tytler, Strang, Louisa Alcott, Jules Verne, will afford stories of thrilling interest—which the teacher should perhaps be able to recommend.

Teachers are earnestly advised not to try this method with old specimen programmes. By doing so, they would work behind the rest of the P.U.S., and would not be able to follow the current programmes nor take the examinations which are an essential part of the method.

No cost whatever attends the use of the current programmes, and it is disastrous for any school to pick a few books from old programmes and attempt to work with them. The attempt would fail because, simple as the Regulations of the P.U.S. are, each of them is *essential*, and a school in which the examinations are not taken is practically wasting time on the books and would do better work on whatever scheme it is at present working.

Head Teachers, having read one or more of Miss Mason's books, and having visited a school or schools where the programmes are in use, should apply to The Director, The Parents' Union School, Ambleside, Westmorland, for an admission form. They should also obtain the permission of their Local Education Authority, and get into touch with the Organizing Secretary of the P.N.E.U.

N.B.—All letters about the School and the Programmes should be sent to Ambleside. P.N.E.U. subscription should be sent to the London Office.

P. N. E. U. ASSOCIATES

(for Parents of Children attending Public Elementary Schools working in the P.U.S.).

The Associates' Subscription is 2/6* a year, to include both heads of the household. This will be used by the P.N.E.U. Executive Committee to defray cost of magazine, pamphlets, library books, lectures, and postage.

*To be sent to the General Secretary, P.N.E.U., 26, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1, by the Head of the Group.

A Group of Associates can be formed at the *request* of the Head of the School, and the membership shall be confined to the parents of that school and of any other the Head may invite.

The Hon. Secretary of the Group shall be this Head Teacher or anyone appointed by him or her. The arrangements shall be in the hands of the Group.

It is suggested that addresses should be arranged on "The Parents' Union School" methods and principles, on the use of books, picture talks, the training of children, their physical care, habit-formation, etc., etc. Nature rambles could also be organised. *Home Education* and other publications of the P.N.E.U. should be found useful for such talks.

The Executive Committee is prepared to send lecturers when desired.

One copy of *Home Education* will be supplied to each centre as well as such other books and pamphlets as may be found desirable.

One copy of the *The Parents' Review* for every six Associates will be sent to the Head of the Group to be circulated.